

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for streaming media data to a client, said method comprising:

encoding an item of content comprising ~~said~~ media data to be streamed to said client into a first multiple description bitstream and into a second multiple description bitstream, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another; and

distributing concurrently said first and second multiple description bitstreams to a plurality of servers placed at intermediate nodes throughout a network, such that said first and second multiple description bitstreams are provided to said client ~~is provided with access to said media data~~ via a plurality of transmission paths.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 1, wherein said encoding further comprises:

encoding said item of media data into a first and a second complementary multiple description bitstream wherein each of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams contains complementary information.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in said step a) of Claim 1, wherein said item of media data is encoded into a first and a second complementary multiple description bitstream wherein each of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams is of substantially equal importance during decoding.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 1, wherein said encoding further comprises:

encoding said item of media data into a first and a second complementary multiple description bitstream wherein each of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams does not include encoded media data that is included in the other of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 1, wherein said item of media data is selected from the group consisting of audio-based data, speech-based data, image-based data, graphic data, and web page-based data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 1, wherein said distributing further comprises:

distributing said first multiple description bitstream to a first server and distributing said second multiple description bitstream to a second server.

7. (Original) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 1, wherein said client is a mobile client.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 7, wherein said distributing further comprises:

distributing said first and second multiple description bitstreams to servers placed along a wired/wireless gateway.

9. (Original) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method does not require complete duplication of said media data in order to achieve path diversity.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for streaming media data to a client as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method is performed in a network system selected from the group consisting of: wired and wired networks; wired and wireless networks; wireless and wired networks; and wireless and wireless networks.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client, said method comprising:

encoding an item comprising said media data to be streamed to said client into a first complementary multiple description bitstream and into a second complementary multiple description bitstream, each of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams containing complementary information not included in the other of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams, and wherein each of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams is useful to said client independent of the other of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams; and

distributing concurrently said first complementary multiple description bitstream and said second complementary multiple description bitstream to a plurality of servers placed at intermediate nodes throughout a network, such that said first and second multiple description bitstreams are provided to said client ~~is provided with access to said media data~~ via a plurality of transmission paths.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 11, wherein each of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams is of substantially equal importance in decoding.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 11, wherein each of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams does not include encoded media data that is included in the other of said first and second complementary multiple description bitstreams.

14. (Previously Presented) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 11, wherein said media data is selected from the group consisting of audio-based data, speech-based data, image-based data, graphic data, and web page-based data.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 11, wherein said distributing further comprises:

distributing said first complementary multiple description bitstream to a first server and distributing said second complementary multiple description bitstream to a second server.

16. (Original) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 11, wherein said client is a mobile client.

17. (Previously Presented) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 16, wherein said distributing further comprises:

distributing said first complementary multiple description bitstream and said second complementary multiple description bitstream to servers placed along a wired/wireless gateway.

18. (Original) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 11, wherein said method does not require complete duplication of said media data in order to achieve path diversity.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for achieving reliability and efficiency and for reducing single points of failure in the streaming of media data to a client as recited in Claim 11, wherein said method is performed in a network system selected from the group consisting of: wired and wired networks; wired and wireless networks; wireless and wired networks; and wireless and wireless networks.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for streaming media data to a client, said system comprising:

a first server having memory coupled thereto, said first server adapted to be coupled to a network, said memory coupled to said first server having a first multiple description bitstream of encoded said media data

stored thereon, said first server adapted to transmit said first multiple description bitstream of encoded said media data to a client via a first path; and

a second server having memory coupled thereto, said second server adapted to be coupled to said network, said memory coupled to said second server having a second multiple description bitstream of encoded said media data stored thereon, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another, said second server adapted to transmit said second multiple description bitstream of encoded said media data to said client via a second path, said first and second servers concurrently transmitting said first and second multiple description bitstreams such that said first and second multiple description bitstreams are provided to said client via a plurality of transmission paths, wherein said first multiple description bitstream and said second multiple description bitstream are decodable independent of one another.

21. (Original) The system for streaming media data to a client of Claim 20 further comprising:

a content server coupled to said first server and said second server, said content server adapted to provide said first multiple description bitstream of encoded said media data to said memory coupled to said first server, said content server further adapted to provide said second multiple description bitstream of encoded said media data to said memory coupled to said second server.

22. (Previously Presented) The system for streaming media data to a client of Claim 20, wherein said media data is selected from the group consisting of audio-based data, speech-based data, image-based data,

graphic data, and web page-based data.

23. (Original) The system for streaming media data to a client of Claim 20, wherein said client is a mobile client.

24. (Original) The system for streaming media data to a client of Claim 23 wherein said first server is placed along a wired/wireless gateway of a network.

25. (Original) The system for streaming media data to a client of Claim 20 wherein said second server is placed along a wired/wireless gateway of a network.

26. (Previously Presented) The system for streaming media data to a client of Claim 20 wherein first server and said second server reside within a network system selected from the group consisting of: wired and wired networks; wired and wireless networks; wireless and wired networks; and wireless and wireless networks.